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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/690,434	10/18/2000	Masahisa Kobayashi	MA-448-US	3744
30743	7590	10/05/2004	EXAMINER	
WHITHAM, CURTIS & CHRISTOFFERSON, P.C. 11491 SUNSET HILLS ROAD SUITE 340 RESTON, VA 20190				CHANG, ERIC
				ART UNIT 2116
				PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/690,434	KOBAYASHI, MASAHIWA
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Eric Chang	2116

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 June 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 20-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 20-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 20-38 are pending.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 20 is objected to because of the following informalities: the term “supplies” in line 8 of the claim should read, “supplied”. Appropriate correction is required.

3. Claim 21 is objected to because of the following informalities: the terms “voltage detection unit” on line 2 of the claim and “selector” on line 4 of the claim should read, “a voltage detection unit” and “a selector”, respectively. Appropriate correction is required.

4. Claim 36 is objected to because of the following informalities: the terms “voltage detection unit” on line 3 of the claim and “selector” on line 5 of the claim should read, “a voltage detection unit” and “a selector”, respectively. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

6. Claims 20-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,351,818 to Murai.

Art Unit: 2116

7. As to claim 20, Murai discloses a bus power-supply device structured to supply power from a power-supply voltage of a node of a proceeding stage to a node of a next stage through a serial bus connected to said node by a physical layer and a plurality of connectors conductive to each other of the node [FIG. 1, and col. 4, lines 10-21], wherein when a power-supply voltage of said node of the proceeding stage is not supplied, a DC voltage is supplied from said node of the proceeding stage through said serial bus to said physical layer [col. 4, lines 10-16], and when said power-supply voltage is supplied, a DC voltage is supplied from said power-supply voltage to said physical layer by cutting off a path for supplying a DC voltage through said serial bus to said physical layer [col. 3, lines 63-67 and col. 4, lines 1-3].

8. As to claim 21, Murai discloses a voltage detection unit which detects said power-supply voltage being supplied or not being supplied [41]; and a selector [42] which supplies a DC voltage coming through said serial bus to said physical layer when said voltage detection unit is yet to detect supply of a power-supply voltage [col. 4, lines 10-16] and supplies a DC voltage from the power-supply voltage to said physical layer by cutting off said path for supplying a DC voltage through said serial bus to said physical layer when said voltage detection unit detects supply [col. 3, lines 63-67 and col. 4, lines 1-3].

9. As to claim 22, Murai discloses said serial bus is an IEEE-1394-1995 Standard serial bus [col. 1, lines 5-7].

Art Unit: 2116

10. As to claim 23, Murai discloses a first path for supplying power from said power-supply voltage to said physical layer [2]; and a second path for supplying power coming through said serial bus to said physical layer [100], wherein when power is supplied from said power-supply voltage, said selector cuts off said second path [col. 3, lines 63-67 and col. 4, lines 1-3].

11. As to claim 24, Murai discloses said device comprises a switch [col. 3, lines 30-33]. It is well known to one of ordinary skill in the art that a semiconductor may be used as a switch.

12. As to claim 25, Murai discloses said device comprises a voltage detection unit [col. 3, lines 30-33]. It is well known to one of ordinary skill in the art that a comparator may be used as a voltage detection unit.

13. As to claim 26, Murai discloses said device comprises a voltage detection unit and a selector [col. 3, lines 30-33]. It is well known to one of ordinary skill in the art that a relay element may be used as said voltage detection unit and said selector.

14. As to claim 27, Murai discloses a power-supply circuit [2] which converts said power-supply voltage into a DC voltage for said serial bus and outputs said DC voltage; a converter [4] which converts a DC voltage output from said power-supply circuit into a DC voltage for said physical layer; a voltage detection unit [41] which detects said power-supply voltage being supplied or not being supplied to said power-supply circuit; and a selector [42] which supplies a DC voltage applied through said serial bus to said converter when said power-supply voltage is

not supplied to said power-supply circuit and cuts off a path for supplying a DC voltage through said serial bus to said converter to supply an output of said power-supply circuit to said converter when said power-supply voltage is supplied [col. 3, lines 63-67 and col. 4, lines 1-17].

15. As to claim 28, Murai discloses a first path for supplying power from said power-supply voltage to said physical layer [2]; and a second path for supplying power coming through said serial bus to said physical layer [100], wherein when power is supplied from said power-supply voltage, said selector cuts off said second path [col. 3, lines 63-67 and col. 4, lines 1-3].

16. As to claim 29, Murai discloses said voltage detection unit detects said power-supply voltage being supplied or not being supplied by detecting an output voltage of said power-supply circuit [col. 3, lines 63-67 and col. 4, lines 1-3].

17. As to claim 30, Murai discloses said voltage detection unit [41] detects said power-supply voltage being supplied or not being supplied by detecting an output voltage of said power-supply circuit, and which further comprises a first path for supplying power from said power-supply voltage to said physical layer [2]; and a second path for supplying power coming through said serial bus to said physical layer [100], wherein when power is supplied from said power-supply voltage, said selector cuts off said second path [col. 3, lines 63-67 and col. 4, lines 1-3].

18. As to claim 31, Murai discloses a first path for supplying power from said power-supply voltage to said physical layer [2]; and a second path for supplying power coming through said

serial bus to said physical layer [100], wherein when power is supplied from said power-supply voltage, said selector cuts off said second path [col. 3, lines 63-67 and col. 4, lines 1-3]. Furthermore, it is well known to one of ordinary skill in the art that a semiconductor may be used as a switch.

19. As to claim 32, Murai discloses said voltage detection unit detects said power-supply voltage being supplied or not being supplied by detecting an output voltage of said power-supply circuit [col. 3, lines 63-67 and col. 4, lines 1-3]. Furthermore, it is well known to one of ordinary skill in the art that a semiconductor may be used as a switch.

20. As to claim 33, Murai discloses said device comprises a voltage detection unit [col. 3, lines 30-33]. It is well known to one of ordinary skill in the art that a comparator may be used as a voltage detection unit.

21. As to claim 34, Murai discloses said device comprises a voltage detection unit and a selector [col. 3, lines 30-33]. It is well known to one of ordinary skill in the art that a relay element may be used as said voltage detection unit and said selector.

22. As to claim 35, Murai discloses a node having a bus power-supply device structured to supply power from a power-supply voltage to a node of a next stage through a serial bus connected to said node by a physical layer and a plurality of connectors conductive to each other of the node [FIG. 1, and col. 4, lines 10-21], comprising: a plurality of connectors each having a

power-supply terminal to which a DC voltage is applied from other nodes through said serial bus and a signal terminal to and from which a signal from other nodes in input and output [100, 111, 112, 113]; a physical layer [6] which outputs a signal input through a signal terminal of one connector to a signal terminal of the other connector, wherein power-supply terminals of said plurality of connectors are rendered conductive to each other, said bus power-supply device supplies a DC voltage through said serial bus to said physical layer through said power-supply terminal when none of a power-supply voltage of said node is supplied [col. 4, lines 10-16], and supplies a DC voltage from the power-supply voltage to said physical layer by cutting off a path for supplying a DC voltage through said serial bus to said physical layer when said power-supply voltage is supplied [col. 3, lines 63-67 and col. 4, lines 1-3].

23. As to claim 36, Murai discloses said bus power-supply device comprises a voltage detection unit [41] which detects said power-supply voltage being supplied or not being supplied; and a selector [42] which supplies a DC voltage coming through said serial bus to said physical layer when said voltage detection unit is yet to detect supply of a power-supply voltage [col. 4, lines 10-16] and supplies a DC voltage from the power-supply voltage to said physical layer by cutting off said path for supplying a DC voltage through said serial bus to said physical layer when said voltage detection limit detects supply [col. 3, lines 63-67 and col. 4, lines 1-3].

24. As to claim 37, Murai discloses a first path for supplying power from said power-supply voltage to said physical layer [2]; and a second path for supplying power coming through said

Art Unit: 2116

serial bus to said physical layer [100], wherein when power is supplied from said power-supply voltage, said selector cuts off said second path [col. 3, lines 63-67 and col. 4, lines 1-3].

25. As to claim 38, Murai discloses said bus power-supply device comprises a power-supply circuit [2] which converts said power-supply voltage into a DC voltage for said serial bus and outputs said DC voltage; a converter [4] which converts a DC voltage output from said power-supply circuit into a DC voltage for said physical layer; a voltage detection unit [41] which detects said power-supply voltage being supplied or not being supplied to said power-supply circuit; and a selector [42] which supplies a DC voltage applied through said serial bus to said converter when said power-supply voltage is not supplied to said power-supply circuit [col. 4, lines 10-16] and cuts off a path for supplying a DC voltage through said serial bus to said converter to supply an output of said power-supply circuit to said converter when said power-supply voltage is supplied [col. 3, lines 63-67 and col. 4, lines 1-3].

Conclusion

26. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Chang whose telephone number is (703) 305-4612. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne can be reached on (703) 308-1159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

September 27, 2004
cc


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